

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NEA-10

NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 USIA-15 TRSE-00 MBFR-03

SAJ-01 ACDA-19 DODE-00 H-03 NSC-10 SS-15 IO-13 CU-04

AEC-11 OMB-01 NIC-01 RSR-01 /158 W

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R 201444Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1280

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652/ N/A

TAGS/ PFOR UR

SUBJ: NEW SOVIET TACK ON FREE EXCHANGE OF PEOPLES AND IDEAS

REF: MOSCOW 9771

1. SUMMARY: PAST WEEK HAS SEEN PUBLIC EMERGENCE OF NEW SOVIET
LINE ON QUESTION OF FREE EXCHANGE OF PEOPLES AND IDEAS (ONE OF
THORNIER ISSUES ON AGENDA OF SECOND STAGE CSCE TALKS). GENERAL
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SECRETARY BREZHNEV TOOK LEAD IN SETTINF GORTH SOVIET LINE OF

"VICTORY THROUGH CONTACTS" DURING SPEECH AT ALMA ATA AUGUST 15. POSITION WAS REITERATED DURING NATIONWIDE TELEVISION QUESTION AND ANSWER PROGRAM CONDUCTED BY PRAVDA COMMENTATOR ZHUKOV ON AUGUST 19. END SUMMARY

2. ATTEMPTING TO PUT BEST FOOT FORWARD IN HANDLING WHAT IS DIFFICULT DOMESTIC POLITICAL ISSUE, BREZHNEV, DURING NATIONALLY TLEVISED SPEECH FROM KAZAKHSTAN AUGUST 15 (REFTEL), WELCOMED CONCEPT OF FREE EXCHANGE OF PEOPLES AND IDEAS. PROCEEDING FROM POSITION THAT CPSU IS CONVINCED OF CORRECTNESS OF ITS PATH AND OF MARXIST-LENINIST IDEOLOGY, BREZHNEV PREDICTED THAT EXPANSION OF CONTACTS AND TIES "WILL HELP GREATLY TO SPREAD THE TRUTH ABOUT SOCIALISM AND WIN MORE AND MORE SUPPORTERS OVER TO THE SIDE OF THE IDEAS OF SCIENTIFIC COMMUNISM."

3. BOWING IN THE DIRECTION OF THE IDEOLOGISTS, BREZHNEV ACKNOWLEDGED THAT WORK MUST BE DONE TO PREPARE THE POPULACE FOR BATTLE OF IDEAS. HE SPECIFICALLY CALLED UPON THE NATION'S PROPAGANDISTS "TO MASTER THE LENINIST SKILL OF POLITICALLY EDUCATING THE MASSES."

4. PRAVDA COMMENTATOR ZHUKOV QUICKLY PICKED UP CUDGELS IN DISCUSSION OF EXCHANGE OF PEOPLES AND IDEAS ON TELEVISED QUESTION AND ANSWER PROGRAM AUGUST 19. ZHUKOV LABELLED AS "CRUDE LIES" THE DESCRIPTION OF SOVIET POSITION ON THIS ISSUE GIVEN BY WESTERN OPPONENTS OF THE USSR. ON CONTRARY, SOVIET UNION BY NO MEANS IS AFRAID OF CONTEST OF IDEAS AND IS CONVINCED THAT SUCH COMPETITION WILL AID IN DISSEMINATING TRUTH ABOUT SOCIALISM AND BRING NEW SUPPORTERS TO ITS SIDE. ZHUKOV FURTHER OBSERVED THAT IT IS ONE THING TO HAVE PRINCIPLED ARGUMENTS; HOWEVER, IT IS QUITE SOMETHING ELSE TO ENGAGE IN SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES WITH INTENTION OF INTERVENING IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF ANOTHER STATE AND CAUSING DOWNFALL IF A GOVERNMENTAL SYSTEM CHOSEN BY THE PEOPLE.

5. COMMENT: NEW SOVIET LINE OF "VICTORY THROUGH CONTACTS" CLEARLY IS ATTEMPT TO PUT ENTIRE CONCEPT OF EXCHANGE OF CONTACTS AND IDEAS IN POSITIVE AND ACCEPTABLE IDEOLOGICAL FORM. IT SUPPLANTS PREVIOUS SOVIET POSITION WHICH GRUDGINGLY ACCEPTED, IN RATHER DEFENSIVE MANNER, INCREASED CONTACTS AS PRICE FOR MOVEMENT ON LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 AUG 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: hilburpw
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973MOSCOW09890
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730828/aaaaaube.tel
Line Count: 109
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: MOSCOW 9771
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: hilburpw
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13-Aug-2001 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <19-Sep-2001 by hilburpw>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NEW SOVIET TACK ON FREE EXCHANGE OF PEOPLES AND IDEAS
TAGS: PFOR, UR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005